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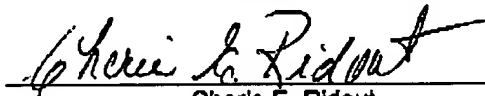
MAR. 14 2006

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being Facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, or deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

14 March 2006

Date



Charlie E. Ridout

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|               |                    |                   |      |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|------|
| Appl. No.     | : 08/951,832       | Confirmation No.: | 2039 |
| Applicants    | : Cesar Z. Lina    |                   |      |
| Filed         | : October 16, 1997 |                   |      |
| TC/A.U.       | : 3761             |                   |      |
| Examiner:     | : Melanie Jo Hand  |                   |      |
| Docket No.    | : VAC.312B.US      |                   |      |
| Customer No.: | 30159              |                   |      |

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED February 14, 2006**

Dear Examiner Hand:

Applicant hereby elects species 1, drawn to a therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing comprising a porous pad, a canister, a suction pump, at least one bacterial filter, and an elastomeric film dressing. Claims 3-8, and 16-23 are believed to be encompassed by the identified species.

Appl. No. 08/951,832  
Amdt. dated March 14, 2006  
Reply to Office action of February 14, 2006

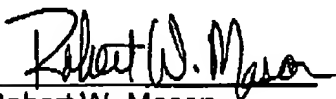
Applicant respectfully retains the right to present the non-elected claims in a divisional application, or in the present application should a generic claim be allowed.

**SUMMARY**

Having complied with Examiner's requirement for a restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121, Applicant respectfully requests timely action on the merits. No fees are believed to be required in this matter. However, Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any fees and credit any overpayments that may be required from Applicant's Deposit Account No. 500326.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that outstanding issues remain in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated to discuss resolution of such issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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I:\Patents\VAC.312\VAC.312B\VAC.312B.US\VAC.312B.US Reply to OA dated 02.14.2006.doc/kf